

CITY OF WINCHESTER
NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD
February 10, 2011
Winchester City Yards Conference Room
5:30 P.M.
Work Session Minutes

- I. Board Chair Dave Worthington welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. In attendance were Gerald Crowell, Dave Worthington, Jim Lawrence, Woody Bousquet, and Tom Hoy.
- II. Dave Worthington said there were two drafts of the information paper. Dave Worthington said to just start at the top of the paper and review them. Gerald Crowell suggested that the information paper be around two pages. Dave Worthington mentioned that “information paper” should be the same size as “natural landscaping zones in the title”. Gerald Crowell asked if the information paper title even needs to be there. Tom Hoy said it should be because if not people might think it is the actual ordinance. Jim Lawrence said in the first paragraph of the paper he had mentioned if the paper should include native plants or if it should be expanded out to woody species. Woody Bousquet suggested saying “native trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses”. Jim Lawrence also suggested in the first paragraph about taking out “happens only once or twice a year” and replacing it with “might only happen once or twice a year” because if not it makes it seem like Natural Resources Advisory Board has some kind of stipulation on the frequency of the mowing. Jim Lawrence said when people read this the Natural Resources Advisory Board wants to make sure the people see some kind of flexibility with this. Woody Bousquet volunteered to make the changes on this information paper and the board agreed. Dave Worthington said the rest of the first paragraph looked fine. Woody Bousquet said he separated the sentences because it had different points. Dave Worthington asked if anyone had suggestions for the second paragraph and Woody Bousquet said he has under the “where and how” section about how this ordinance came about, even though it is somewhat buried in the sentence. Gerald Crowell said he liked how it reads. Woody Bousquet asked for suggestions for the title of the third section and the Natural Resources Advisory Board suggested it read “Where might natural landscaping be used, and why?” Jim Lawrence suggested under the third section, second point add “to lessen maintenance costs” Dave Worthington read Jim Lawrence’s suggestion in the third section “in areas of zoning transition to protect or enhance a viewshed”. Woody Bousquet asked what Jim Lawrence meant by that and Jim Lawrence said that there was not anything in this paper that speaks to the aesthetic needs or a transition between a commercial and residential space and a park. Gerald Crowell and Woody Bousquet suggested adding “to enhance aesthetics and separate different types of land uses in the City”. Gerald Crowell mentioned in the fourth section under “Does the City have any natural landscaping zones now?” if all these examples needed to be there? Tom Hoy suggested not removing any of these examples because this is a small thing that can get the message out. Dave Worthington said it is a major part of the presentation and he suggested adding the Worthington Nature Area. Woody Bousquet suggested adding “in Winchester” for the title of this section which would read “Does the City have any natural

landscaping zones in Winchester now?” Jim Lawrence said under the fifth section he suggested substituting “managed turf” for “traditional landscaping”. Gerald Crowell suggested “require less labor, water, fertilizer, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and mowing than traditional lawns”. Dave Worthington said he has seen some internet articles that “managed turf” has a negative connotation to some people and that it is taking away their ability to have a lawn because people love their green mowed lawn that they spent hours and hours maintaining. Woody Bousquet said that a place the board could include this in the paper would be on the first page, under the section “Where and how can natural landscaping zones be established?” Woody Bousquet suggested putting “participation by private landowners is entirely voluntary” in a separate bullet. Dave Worthington suggested adding in Jim Lawrence’s comment under the fifth section to add “clean-up” which would read “limit Canada goose populations thus reducing the cost for waterfowl management and control and clean-up”. Woody Bousquet suggested adding “and other air pollutants” to Jim Lawrence’s comment under the fifth section to read “better air quality because mowers and other lawn maintenance equipment are significant sources of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and other air pollutants”. Woody Bousquet agreed with Jim Lawrence’s change under the fifth section to move “they help to beautify the City” to the last point in that section. Woody Bousquet said on the last bullet in the fifth section to remove “decreased mowing equals” because the overall heading is “what are the benefits of natural landscaping zones?” Woody Bousquet suggested the last bullet in the fifth section to read “less soil compaction which improves groundwater recharge and plant health”. Dave Worthington suggested combining this point with the eighth point in the fifth section to read “decreased stormwater volume and velocity plus less soil compaction, which together improve groundwater recharge and plant health”. Dave Worthington asked if there were any more suggestions and no one had any more suggestions. Dave Worthington said the next step for this information paper is to reach out to city council.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.